

## IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claim will replace all prior versions and listings of claim in the present application.

### Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A symmetric-key encryption method comprising the steps of:

dividing plaintext composed of redundancy data and a message to generate a plurality of plaintext blocks each having a predetermined length;

generating a random number sequence based on a secret key;

generating a random number block corresponding to one of said plurality of plaintext blocks from said random number sequence;

outputting a feedback value obtained as a result of operation on said one of the said plurality of plaintext blocks and said random number block, said feedback value being fed back to for use in the operation on another one of the said plurality of plaintext blocks; and

performing an encryption operation using said one of the plurality of plaintext blocks, said random number block, and a said feedback value obtained as a result of operation on still another one of the said plurality of plaintext blocks to produce a ciphertext block.

2. (original) The symmetric-key encryption method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said encryption operation uses one or more said random number blocks whose total length is longer than a length of said ciphertext block.

3. (original) The symmetric-key encryption method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said plaintext further includes secret data of a predetermined length.

4. (original) The symmetric-key encryption method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said encryption operation performs a binomial operation or a monomial operation using one of said plurality of plaintext blocks one or more times according to a predetermined procedure, combines a plurality of obtained ciphertext blocks, and outputs the combined plurality of ciphertext blocks as ciphertext.

5. (original) The symmetric-key encryption method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said encryption operation includes multiplication and addition in a finite field.

6. (original) The symmetric-key encryption method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said encryption operation includes a combination of a cyclic shift operation and arithmetic multiplication.

7. (original) The symmetric-key encryption method as claimed in claim 2, wherein said symmetric-key encryption method employs a pseudorandom-number generating means for generating said random number sequence based on said secret key.

8. (original) The symmetric-key encryption method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising steps of:

dividing said message into a plurality of message blocks;

generating a number of random number sequences equal to the number of said plurality of message blocks using said pseudorandom-number generating means; and

performing parallel processing by assigning said plurality of message blocks to one operation unit and assigning said number of random number sequences to another operation unit.

Claims 9-12 (canceled).

13. (currently amended) A symmetric-key encryption apparatus comprising:  
a circuit for receiving plaintext composed of redundancy data and a message, and dividing the received plaintext to generate a plurality of plaintext blocks each having a predetermined length;  
a circuit for receiving a secret key to generate a random number sequence, and generating a random number block corresponding to one of said plurality of plaintext blocks from said random number sequence;  
a circuit for outputting a feedback value obtained as a result of operation on said one of the plurality of plaintext blocks and said random number block, said feedback value being fed back to another one of the plurality of plaintext blocks; and

an encryption operation circuit for performing an encryption operation using said one of the said plurality of plaintext blocks, said random number block, and a feedback value, which was fed back to said encryption operation circuit, obtained as a result of operation on still another one of the plurality of plaintext blocks and another random number block, to produce a ciphertext block.

14. (original) The symmetric-key encryption apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said encryption operation circuit uses one or more said random number blocks whose total length is longer than a length of said ciphertext block.

15. (original) The symmetric-key encryption apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said plaintext further includes secret data of a predetermined length.

16. (original) The symmetric-key encryption apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said encryption operation circuit includes:

a circuit for performing a binomial operation or a monomial operation using one of said plurality of plaintext blocks one or more times according to a predetermined procedure; and

a circuit for combining a plurality of obtained ciphertext blocks, and outputting the combined plurality of ciphertext blocks as ciphertext.

17. (original) The symmetric-key encryption apparatus as claimed in

claim 14, -wherein said encryption operation circuit performs multiplication and addition in a finite field.

18. (original) The symmetric-key encryption apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein said encryption operation circuit includes a cyclic shift operation circuit and an arithmetic multiplication circuit.

19. (original) The symmetric-key encryption apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising:

a pseudorandom number generator for generating said random number sequence based on said secret key.

20. (original) The symmetric-key encryption apparatus as claimed in claim 19, further comprising:

a circuit for dividing said message into a plurality of message blocks;

a circuit for generating a number of random number sequences equal to the number of said plurality of message blocks using said pseudorandom number generator;

a plurality of operation units; and

a circuit for assigning said plurality of message blocks to one of the plurality of operation units and assigning said number of random number sequences to another one of the plurality of operation units.

Claims 21-24 (canceled).

25. (currently amended) A medium storing a program for causing a computer to perform a symmetric-key encryption method, wherein said program is read into said computer, said symmetric-key encryption method comprising the steps of:

reading plaintext composed of redundancy data and a message, and dividing said plaintext to generate a plurality of plaintext blocks each having a predetermined length;

receiving a secret key to generate a random number sequence, and generating a random number block corresponding to one of said plurality of plaintext blocks from said random number sequence;

outputting a feedback value obtained as a result of operation on said one of said the plurality of plaintext blocks and said random number block, said feedback value being fed back to for use in the operation on another one of the plurality of plaintext blocks; and

performing an encryption operation using said one of the plurality of plaintext blocks, said random number block, and as aid feedback value obtained as a result of operation on still another one of the plurality of plaintext blocks and another random number block to produce a ciphertext block.

26. (original) The medium storing a program as claimed in claim 25, wherein said encryption operation uses one or more said random number block

whose total length is longer than a length of said ciphertext block.

27. (original) The medium storing a program as claimed in claim 26, wherein said plaintext further includes secret data of a predetermined length.

28. (original) The medium storing a program as claimed in claim 26, wherein said encryption operation performs a binomial operation or a monomial operation using one of said plurality of plaintext blocks one or more times according to a predetermined procedure, combines a plurality of obtained ciphertext blocks, and outputs the combined plurality of ciphertext blocks as ciphertext.

29. (original) The medium storing a program as claimed in claim 26, wherein said encryption operation includes multiplication and addition in a finite field.

30. (original) The medium storing a program as claimed in claim 26, wherein said encryption operation includes a cyclic shift operation and arithmetic multiplication.

31. (original) The medium storing a program as claimed in claim 26, wherein said symmetric-key encryption method further comprises a step of:

generating pseudorandom numbers to generate said random number sequence based on said secret key.

32. (original) The medium storing a program as claimed in claim 31, wherein said symmetric-key encryption method further comprises steps of:

dividing said message into a plurality of message blocks;

generating said pseudorandom numbers so as to generate a number of random number sequences equal to the number of said plurality of message blocks; and

assigning said plurality of message blocks to one operation unit and assigning said number of random number sequences to another operation unit.

Claims 33-36 (canceled).

37. (currently amended) A program product for causing a computer to perform a symmetric-key encryption method, wherein said program product is read into said computer, said program product comprising:

code for causing said computer to read plaintext composed of redundancy data and a message, and divide said plaintext to generate a plurality of plaintext blocks each having a predetermined length;

code for causing said computer to receive a secret key to generate a random number sequence, and generate a random number block corresponding to one of said plurality of plaintext blocks from said random number sequence;

code for causing said computer to output a feedback value obtained as a result of operation on said one of the said plurality of plaintext blocks and said random number block, said feedback value being fed back for use in the operation

on another one of the said plurality of plaintext blocks; and  
code for causing said computer to perform an encryption operation using said  
one of the plurality of plaintext blocks, said random number block, and a said  
feedback value obtained as a result of operation on still another one of the plurality  
of plaintext blocks and another random number block to produce a ciphertext block,  
wherein said program product is stored in a medium readable by said  
computer for embodying said codes.